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Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the sixty-sixth session

Observer status for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in the General Assembly

Letter dated 5 August 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to refer to my letter dated 8 June 2011 to the President of the General Assembly, requesting, in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the sixty-sixth session of the Assembly of a supplementary item entitled "Observer status for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in the General Assembly".

Enclosed with that letter was a letter from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, in his capacity as Chair of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) (see enclosure), together with an explanatory memorandum in support of the above request (annex I) and a draft resolution (annex II).

In Ethiopia's capacity as the current Chair of IGAD, I have the honour to reiterate the Authority's request for the inclusion of the aforementioned item in the agenda of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

I have the honour to request that the present letter and its enclosure and annexes be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Tekeda **Alemu**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Enclosure

21 April 2011

I have the honour, in my capacity as current Chair of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to request you to include in the agenda of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly a supplementary item entitled "Observer status for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in the General Assembly", pursuant to the decision taken by the IGAD Council of Ministers.

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory profile of IGAD (annex I) and a draft resolution (annex II) are attached to this letter in support of the above request.

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government, which met in Djibouti in January 1986, decided to establish IGAD as a subregional institution to work on peace and development issues within the subregion. The Agreement which officially established the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD), as it was called then, with its headquarters in Djibouti, was signed by six countries in the Horn of Africa, namely, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda.

In April 1995, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government made a Declaration to revitalize IGADD. On 21 March 1996, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government signed a Letter of Instrument to Amend the IGADD Charter/Agreement, establishing IGAD with a new name, "Intergovernmental Authority on Development".

The revitalized IGAD, with expanded areas of regional cooperation and a new organizational structure, was launched by the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government on 25 November 1996.

IGAD has since then continued to cooperate closely with the African Union, the United Nations and its various agencies, and has concluded cooperation agreements with other multilateral organizations and agencies.

It has thus become imperative for IGAD, with its ever-increasing engagements in areas of peace and development in the subregion, to take part in the work of various United Nations conferences and committees relevant to its mandate and shared mission with the United Nations, to which observer status within our global organization becomes critical.

I would request that the present letter, together with its annexes, be circulated as a document of the General Assembly for its serious consideration.

(*Signed*) Hailemariam **Desalegn**
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Annex I

Explanatory memorandum

Background

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development in Eastern Africa was created in 1996 to supersede the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD) which was founded in 1986. The recurring and severe droughts and other natural disasters between 1974 and 1984 caused widespread famine, ecological degradation and economic hardship in the Eastern Africa region. Although individual countries made substantial efforts to cope with the situation and received generous support from the international community, the magnitude and extent of the problem argued strongly for a regional approach to supplement national efforts.

In 1983 and 1984, six countries in the Horn of Africa — Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda — took action through the United Nations to establish an intergovernmental body for development and drought control in their region. The Assembly of Heads of State and Government met in Djibouti in January 1986 to sign the Agreement which officially launched IGADD with headquarters in Djibouti. The State of Eritrea became the seventh member after attaining independence in 1993. Although IGADD was originally conceived to coordinate the efforts of member States to combat drought and desertification, it became increasingly apparent that the Authority provided a regular forum where leaders of the Eastern African countries were able to tackle other political and socio-economic issues in a regional context. Realizing this, the Heads of State and Government of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, the Sudan and Uganda, at an extraordinary summit on 18 April 1995, resolved to expand the mandate of IGADD.

In April 1995 in Addis Ababa, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government made a declaration to revitalize IGADD and expand cooperation among member States. On 21 March 1996 in Nairobi, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government signed a Letter of Instrument to Amend the IGADD Charter/Agreement, establishing the revitalized IGAD with a new name, "Intergovernmental Authority on Development". The revitalized IGAD, with expanded areas of regional cooperation and a new organizational structure, was launched by the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government on 25 November 1996 in Djibouti.

Structure of IGAD

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development comprises four hierarchical policy organs:

1. **The Assembly of Heads of State and Government** is the supreme policymaking organ of the Authority. It determines the objectives, guidelines and programmes for IGAD and meets once a year. A Chairman is elected from among the member States in rotation.

2. **The Council of Ministers** is composed of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and one other focal Minister designated by each member State. The Council

formulates policy, and approves the work programme and annual budget of the secretariat during its biannual sessions.

3. **The Committee of Ambassadors** is composed of IGAD member States' ambassadors or plenipotentiaries accredited to the country of IGAD headquarters. It convenes as often as the need arises to advise and guide the Executive Secretary.

4. **The secretariat** is headed by an Executive Secretary appointed by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government for a term of four years, renewable once. The secretariat assists member States in formulating regional projects in the priority areas, facilitates the coordination and harmonization of development policies, mobilizes resources to implement regional projects and programmes approved by the Council and reinforces national infrastructures necessary for implementing regional projects and policies.

5. The Executive Secretary is assisted by four Directors heading Divisions of Economic Cooperation and Social Development; Agriculture and Environment; Peace and Security; and Administration and Finance, together with 22 regional professional staff and various short-term project and technical assistance staff.

Mission

The IGAD mission is to assist and complement the efforts of the member States to achieve, through increased cooperation:

- Food security and environmental protection.
- Promotion and maintenance of peace and security and humanitarian affairs.
- Economic cooperation and integration.

Vision

IGAD will be the premier regional organization for achieving peace, prosperity and regional integration in the IGAD region.

The objectives of IGAD are:

- To promote joint development strategies and gradually harmonize macroeconomic policies and programmes in the social, technological and scientific fields.
- To harmonize policies with regard to trade, Customs, transport, communication, agriculture, and natural resources, and promote free movement of goods, services and people within the region.
- To create an enabling environment for foreign, cross-border and domestic trade and investment.
- To achieve regional food security and encourage and assist efforts of member States to collectively combat drought and other natural and man-made disasters and their natural consequences.
- To initiate and promote programmes and projects to achieve regional food security and sustainable development of natural resources and environment protection, and encourage and assist efforts of member States to collectively

combat drought and other natural and man-made disasters and their consequences.

- To develop and improve a coordinated and complementary infrastructure in the areas of transport, telecommunications and energy in the region.
- To promote peace and stability in the region and create mechanisms within the region for the prevention, management and resolution of inter-State and intra-State conflicts through dialogue.
- To mobilize resources for the implementation of emergency, short-term, medium-term and long-term programmes within the framework of regional cooperation.
- To promote and realize the objectives of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and the African Economic Community.
- To facilitate, promote and strengthen cooperation in research development and application in science and technology.

Strategy

The IGAD strategy was elaborated in 2003 and adopted at the tenth summit of Heads of State and Government.

The strategy provides a coherent framework aimed at guiding IGAD priority development programmes in pursuit of its mandate, and in moving it forward as the premier regional economic organization for achieving peace, prosperity and regional integration in the IGAD region. It draws its spirit and substance from the member States' desire to attain viable regional economic cooperation in the IGAD region. It incorporates and benefits from:

- Experiences gained in the past.
- Current framework conditions of development cooperation.
- Regional as well as global challenges and emerging issues facing the region.

In preparing the strategy, IGAD has embraced and employed the principles of ownership, participation and partnership. With this in mind, IGAD has involved, to the maximum extent possible, its staff, member States and IGAD partners in preparing the strategy.

The strategy document is composed of five main sections. Section I introduces an overview of the profile of the region, highlighting the economic and social situation. A glimpse of IGAD's history and a summary of its mandate provide the raison d'être for establishing this regional organization. The section cites some of the strengths of IGAD as a regional development vehicle. It also mentions the challenges and constraints that were encountered and the valuable lessons learned, which will be utilized in focusing and sharpening the strategy.

Section II of the strategy presents the IGAD vision and mission statements. It also defines some other important aspects of the strategy, among which are a set of principles and values that IGAD will abide by as it pursues its mandate; and the strategic approach and partnerships and comparative advantages of IGAD. The section also presents characteristics of the strategy with regard to its flexibility and dynamism, and framework conditions.

Details of the core outputs of the strategy are provided in section III. The section identifies the need to address a number of key strategic issues pertaining to the complex and ever-changing nature of regional cooperation. These include policy matters; development information-sharing; capacity-building; establishing partnerships and alliances; and facilitating research and technology development.

Section IV is the main thrust of the strategy. It presents the programmes under the three priority sectors of IGAD: agriculture and environment, political and humanitarian affairs and economic cooperation. Fairly detailed descriptions of the programmes and other cross-cutting themes like gender mainstreaming are presented in the section.

Section V underscores the important issue of implementing the strategy. It identifies that successful implementation of the strategy can be realized only through the concerted collaborative efforts of the IGAD member States, the secretariat and the IGAD Partners Forum.

Finally it is recognized that the strategy was first and foremost a tool to guide the IGAD secretariat in implementing its mandate, but it is also owned by the member States and supported by the IGAD Partners Forum, which finances most of the programmes. At various stages of the process of formulating the strategy, it became clear that a more focused Strategy did not mean reduction of regional programme priorities but rather a level of intervention and outputs commensurate with the secretariat's capacity. It should be underlined at this juncture that the capacity of IGAD encompasses both the technical and institutional capacity in the member States that are at the disposal of IGAD.

IGAD Inter-Parliamentary Union

The Protocol establishing the IGAD Inter-Parliamentary Union came into force on 28 November 2007 after being ratified by four IGAD member States (Ethiopia, Djibouti, Sudan, Somalia).

The first meeting of the Conference of the Speakers of Parliaments of IGAD member States, the highest organ of the Union, was held in Addis Ababa on 28 November 2008. The meeting was attended by Speakers of Parliaments of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda. Kenya was represented by high-level government officials, as the Parliament was dissolved because of the election in the country.

Civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations

The IGAD Civil Society Forum was established in 2003. However, there has been very little activity since then. The IGAD programme officer responsible for this sector was recruited only in October 2007.

In order to be able to resuscitate the interface between the IGAD secretariat and the civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations in the region the Peace and Security Division has decided to have a consultancy service. The objective of the consultancy is to involve in a concrete manner civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations of the region in IGAD thematic areas, namely, peace and security, agriculture and environment and economic cooperation and integration.

Accordingly, the Division prepared draft terms of reference and as the issue of civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations is a cross-cutting one proposed to the Executive Secretary the setting-up of an inter-divisional committee consisting of representatives from the three divisions of the secretariat, Peace and Security, Economic Cooperation and Social Development, and Agriculture and Environment.

Annex II

Draft resolution

Observer status for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development,

1. *Decides* to invite the Intergovernmental Authority on Development to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.